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AT THE
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Diſcovered
By Colonell *William Fleetwood*, an unfortunate Commander in that untoward
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LONDON,
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RPJCB.

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AN Unhappy view of the whole behaviour of my Lord Duke of *Buckingham*, at the French Iſland, called the Iſland of REE.

AT a private aſſembly at the Councell Table by the King and the Lords, and to extinguiſh the ignominy of the former ſervice of *Cales*, an attempt into *France* was concluded on, and the Duke deſigned for Generall, who took the honour indifferently gladly, preſuming to recover his loſt honour and credit by his own Proweſſe in his Exploit.

Hereupon began a ſtrong preſſe of Souldiers, ſo large a proviſion of Victuals, and other maintenance for them, as could not but in common reaſon promiſe a boon voyage to come, if the intent were cloſely carryed.

But before any Souldiers were imbarqued, the Duke out of an evill will to the weal-publique, divulged the plot at Court very freely, without any feare or wit, whereby the worſt of our ill-willers whereſoever (taking but the pains to addreſſe themſelves thither) might know all for an eaſie attention, which muſt needs be half a prevention of the hopes in queſtion.

Upon the point of our first setting to Sea, the Duke out of a distrust of some miserable death that might befall himself in the voyage, as of the consideration of being for a time estranged from his effeminate pleasures here at home, from which no warlike service could ever with-draw him, would willingly have relinquisht his Charge, without any allegation, either of the weaknes, unexperience, or insufficiency of his own person, but that he was prickt and spurred on to it afresh, by the onely perswasion of his Majesty: For that the eyes of all the Troops, were fixed on him for their Chieftain.

Upon this we put forth to Sea, and inclined our selves by the Dukes direction to the Island of Rhee, *or* St. Martins.

Where, as well every Mechanick and common Souldiers, as Captains, and Collonels in our Company, knew, where our Journey was to end. But, *Lord!* the Dukes carriage at Sea was obstinate and ridiculous, and altogether backward to his faith and credit, laid to pawn here at home in his absence; for whatsoever the circumspect Commanders under him had propounded, as behoovefull, he would be sure to gain-say it, under a vile penalty, to command, that no Invention should be so much

much as set on foot, but what proceeded from his study and approbation, so to be wholly inriched & dignified with the Attribute of compassing all the good fortune that could any way attend the Enterprize, as he now, contrariwise, surfeits of the disgrace.

The Islanders, through the largenes of the Dukes tongue, being too inquisitive after their fortifications of divers plaguie Passengers at Sea, were acquainted with our meanings, long before they saw us, and we arrived not there without an unlucky expectation, and entertainment.

After we had viewed the Fort and Scituation, we began to demand of the Duke, wherein our Country could be advantaged, by suppressing such a vast strong, ill-favoured place, in that the maintenance thereof after our conquest, would yearly expend very neer as much, as the profit could amount unto.

To this he replyed, that through his own Entreaty, upon His Majesties Signing of his Commission, he was only put upon this Iland, which, if he should but recover, at his return, it would redeem all his lost honour at home; and so commanded us to intrench our selves.

We all being confident, that the Expression could not but proceed from an undaunted heart,

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ſome of us preſently in a deſperate manner, went on ſhore (expecting the Duke and his Retinue at our heeles) where we were ſuddenly unawares encountred very ſharpely by ſome Troops of *French* Horſemen (which by means that the Duke kept at Sea, and came not in to our ſuccour) ſo oppreſſed us with their multitude, that many of our company in our return to our ſhips, were hewn to pieces, or drowned in the water, as Sir *William Hayden*, *Mr. Temple* of *Lincoln Inne*, and many other of good parentage.

The third day after the repulſe, we renewed our ſtrength, and went all again on ſhore, and there fortified our ſelves for our moſt advantage, and in ſhort time after, ſo furiouſly ſummoned the Iſland, that the Inhabitants were conſtrained to retire to their Fort, as their laſt refuge, to the gates whereof we purſued them with great terror, and took ſome priſoners.

Then perceiving the ſtrength and compaſſe of the Fort, and underſtanding that it was well Victualled for a lingring Siege, we recoyled back, and intrenched our ſelves anew from the annoy of their Cannon, and by degrees we came at laſt to inviron it almoſt round (as far as it was any way needfull) and yet kept out of the danger of their Ordinance ſtill, and for a good while deprived them of

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all ſuccours, both by Sea and land, and ſo planted our Battery.

Thus farre we ſped indifferently well, having, in recompence of our firſt overthrow, gained the Iſland, and put our ſelves in poſſeſſion of it.

The honour and applauſe whereof deteſteth the Duke and his beſt merits in the whole action, and, next under God, reflects on the Ever-having fame and memory of that Right Valiant, and Heroique Gentleman Sir *John Burrows*, by whoſe onely reach it was compaſſed, and whole act herein, ſince in a calme ſeaſon, he was afterwards trecherouſly ſlain, deſerves, if one may ſay ſo without preſumption, to immortallize his Soule.

The Fort now remaining unyeelded, and ſtanding betwixt us and a reaſonable Conqueſt, by the powerfull and ſearching perſwaſion of Sir *John Burrows*, as well common Souldiers as Captains proteſted to have too, or elſe to dye in the field, which promiſe, the very Flower of all our Commanders there, were inforced in the end to make good, to the very effuſion of their deareſt bloud: And thus we continued our Battery for above two moneths ſpace; and yet in all that time, through the extraordinary ſtrength of the place, by reaſon of the Rampiers, and Barracadoes, that the defendants had new erected within, we could make no

breach,

breach, nor take other opportunity to give an assault.

Whereupon for that our provision held out well, it was determined by Sir John Burrowes (whose weakest advise at this time, the multitude were readier to follow than the best of the Dukes) that we should beleagure the round Fort still as we had begun, and without a surrender thereof by a long seige, should starve up the defendants, and (all things considered) this was the onely way to surprize so impregnable a place.

The Duke was infinitly incensed with this sway of Sir *John Burrowes*, and his owne neglect, and therefore by degrees hee indeavoured to allure the hearts of the Souldiers from him, which bare words could not doe, nor bring to passe till he privatly had distributed to some of them assenting, the pay of the rest discenting, whereupon such a murmuring discontent arose betwixt the faction of Sir *John Burrowes* and the *Duke*, that had not Sir *John* suddenly quieted all by his wisdome, we had certainly mutined amongst our selves to all our confusion, and so have given the Enemy an occasion of advantage, but they seemed to be reconciled, and new celebrated the amity, the same night, by a private Supper in the Dukes Tent.

But such is the malice of a vindicative heart, that

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it is never appeased, but remaines still inexorable and deviliſh.

For the next morning Sir *John Burrows* (according to his daily wont) ſurveying his own Trenches and being cleare out of all danger of the Fort, was in an inſtant ſtricken dead in the place with a muſket, ſhot by an unknown hand, and ſo gives up his ſpotleſſe ſoul into the joyes of Heaven, that had never done but good on earth.

The newes and manner of this bred a new hurly burley in the Campe, and ready we were to dye againe upon each others ſwords, but through freſh rewards from the Duke to ſome, and Lord like meanes to other ſome that had been formerly rewarded, all were once more quieted, and our proviſion was much leſſened, whereupon my Lord of *Holland* was ſent to for our releife but came not.

About this time there was news, that the French King approached with releife for the Fort, and to raiſe our ſeig wherupon the Duke for the ſafeguard of his owne perſon (wheras his retinew were the ſtrongeſt already, withdrew two of the beſt Regim. from the ſure places wher Sir *John Burrows* had formerly allotted them for his own defence in particular, and ſo left al manleſſe, which the *French* Convoyes perceiving, entred there the ſame night, & releived the *Fort* in abundance both with freſh *ſoldier*

and provision, and so nightly for a week together came under our noses with the like stuffe, and yet the Duke would not suffer us to encounter them, pretending that hee feared the French King at his backe, when (alas) there was neither King nor French Army there.

When the Fort was as well manned as victualed, the defendants began divers times to confront and brave us, before their maine sally out, yet this our Generall would neither permit us, to incounter them, nor at last to continue our battery, so that in a very discontented manner we lay idle, riotously consuming the remainder of His Majesties allowance, without attempting any thing worth the while: Insomuch that I my selfe impartially demanded of the Duke what he would doe with us, whether he longed to inthrall us to his owne ignoble pleasure, or to starve us up instead of the defendants, but could draw no other answer from him, but that he was our General, and so we should know it by the strict hand he would carry over us.

And for our further proceedings against the Fort, wee should goe on in our idlenesse till wee heard further from him.

Wee that were Colonels and prime Officers under him could hardly brook this his untoward carriage (as raw meat on our stomachs) yet for quiet-

nesse

neſſe ſake, to repell mutenies in the Camp, we ſmothered our grudge, without any appearance of heart burning to the multitude, and ſo lay expecting a miſerable ſucceſſe of all our undertakings. Afterwards the Duke told us, that he had ſecret intelligence out of the Fort, that moſt of their beſt Souldiers had conveied themſelves away by night, for feare of a new ſupply by my Lord of *Holland*, and that the Remnant (if we lay ſtill intrencht) would ſhortly become our Vaſſals, which news being confirmed with as large proteſtations as could proceed from the heart of any Chriſtian man, made us ſo farre to credit him, as to lie ſecure, and to preſume, that this, once done, would make us all as happy, as our confidence in his word, could any wayes make us miſerable by the contrary.

The very next morning after this conſultation, which fell out to be the day of doom to moſt of us, the Duke being ſenſible of his perfideous dealings, & that was the day the Defendants would encounter us to death, notwithſtanding what his engagement for our ſafety had formerly bin to the contrary, privily in his Tent, by the help of his faction; attired one of his own followers, every way much reſembling himſelf, in his warlike habit & colours, with inſtructions ſuitable to the deceipt, and then diſguiſed, as a faint and impotent ſouldier, got him-

ſelfe a Shipboard, and not onely left us ignorant of the bloody intent towards us, but alſo made us uncapable to prevent it, when we ſhould.

Immediatly upon this, we ſuſpecting as little this treachery (as that which came of it) the defendants numberleſſe ſallied out, and with ſuch violence, and fury aſſayled us in our Trenches (they taking moſt of us unarmed, and daunted with the ſight of the multitude) that wee were glad to fly for our lives.

Which retreat coſt moſt of us our lives (as the aſſault and both fel out in the end) to make up a conqueſt to the *French*, & an abſolute overthrow to us.

The wildneſſe of my Lord *Mountjoyes* horſe was the cauſe of his ſurprizall, and as well of the death of ſome of our own men, for that he not onely avoyded the Enemies charge, but confuſedly ranne upon, and beat back divers of our beſt horſes, which otherwiſe to the very death would have ſtood it out.

In our flight we aimed at a certain narrow bridge, over a great River, which if we could have recovered and paſſed, we had ſtopt the purſuit of our Enemies, but through their pollicy we were prevented by their overturning a loded Cart there beforehand which we muſt either climbe over, or leape into the River, or ſalt-pits, which moſt of our Company being unable to doe, were inſtantly hewen

in peeces, Sir *Charles Rich* and others of great esteeme, who in the very deadly extremity were offered quarter, but would not, rather chusing to dye honourably, then longer to live with infamy and torment, I my selfe perceiving the folly of resisting any longer, having one of the best Horses in the Company, was forced to take an infirme Salt-pit, where both my selfe and my horse stuck fast in the ground, and where I had suddenly a gashly wound in the legge with a Bullet, and so I lay struggling for life, Lord, Lord, (me thought) what paine it was to dye so; and divers of our Company and Commanders were in the like distresse, But in the end the *French* horsemen, wanting shot to reach us in the water, by the valiancy of the poore remainder of our souldiers, that were gotten over the Cart, wee were dragged ashoare, and so being at that time unpursued, were conveyed out of danger.

During the time of our conflict, our counterfeit Generall fought very resolutely, and got a gash or two in his shoulder for his pains and labour, which (before we knew the deceit) made us, notwithstanding our losses, to commend him for a valourous Commander, but through the *Dukes* backwardnes, some of those that were trusted with the knowledge of this Villany, we understood it all in

two dayes after, in our comfortlesse journey homewards, and we had thereupon presently mortalized his carkasse for amends, but that, upon a more mature deliberation, we thought it fitter to let him die at home, by the inquestionable hand of the Parliament, so he himself could not take this as his preservation, but as his reservation to a more infamous end. And truely should the revenge of the Parliaments almost extremity seize upon him, it would be but correspondent to his merits, that would find in his heart to lye secure himself, and all the while to see us, that were his charge, knocked down, and slaughtered like dogges: O let him go to the grave and let no man stay him, for it is a sin to pity him in his worst estate.

My Lord *Mountjoy*, was the onely man of note of our party, that accepted Quarter, and was since very honourably ransomed, and sent home againe, which proceeded more from the Heroique clemency of the *French* King, then for any desert, either of his own or ours.

One of our *French* prisoners that we have taken at our first encounter, confessed to me, in our return homewards, that had Sir *John Burrowes* lived one two dayes longer, the Defendants were concluded to have given up the Fort, and all the treasure in it, to our disposure, in respect they had so miserable

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experience of his vigilant intercepting of all their convoyes, and ſtopping of their paſſages; And therefore this reach could not but redownd to their utter confuſion in the end, unleſſe they ſubmitted themſelves betimes, but the news of his death was joyous unto them, as it was grievous unto us, and made them reſolve to dye in their own defences, but the miſtake at laſt coſt moſt of us our lives.

And this is the whole deſcription of our miſ-fortunes, which upon a due conſideration (I think) muſt needs provoke the pooreſt affected of our nation, to indevour a revenge to be done; In all our future Voyages, he muſt and will be ſtill our Generall, and then to thrive (at leaſt) after the old faſhion, we muſt aſſure our ſelves.

We have not been a little famous in France, for Conqueſt heretofore with a few, but God Almighty is omnipotent and juſt, and we now ſee it is his pleaſure, to make us all to ſuffer for the ſin and laſcivious life of this one man: His will be done in all.

And if we can, we muſt be content (beſides too notwithſtanding) he hath been the death of divers of the nobility, the unlucky overthrow of all our late voyages.

The unknown conſumer of our Treaſury, and the utter confuſion of the poore *Proteſtants* in *France*, now daily maſſacred without all pity, through

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through their needleſſe defence of their Religion.

Yet it is the Kings pleaſure ſtill to afford him his wonted grace and connivance for all this; And Treaſon it is apparent to denounce him faulty in any thing; But let his Majeſty look to it, for his longer ſheltring of this rich Traytor, and falſe-hearted man, both to God and his Country, which will be the ruine both of himſelf and his kingdom at laſt, yet then I have hope (out of the integrity of his heart, now whileſt it is called to day, and before the evill day come) he will give him over to the Parliament, whilſt it is of ſtrength to puniſh him; And that they for their parts will ſend him to H. without any more adoe.

If any hereafter ſhall maligne, or goe about to diſprove me in any one of theſe points (ſo I may be unqueſtionable for this preſumption) I will, notwithſtanding my lameneſſe, maintaine all upon notice to his face, to the expence of my deareſt blood; In the interim, I expect good news from the Parliament, by the next faire wind.

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